

# The Appalachian Messenger



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## What An Actual Leader Would Say

By Paul Rosenberg

and none are looking forward. (I do not consider “My administration will give you more bennies” to be seriously forward-looking.)

So, since none of this crowd is going to venture anywhere outside of their hermetically sealed status quo, I’d like to give you an example of something a real leader might say.

**Late summer 2015, Anytown, USA: A small platform stands at the edge of a cornfield. A very average-looking person steps up to a microphone and speaks:**  
*Friends,*

*I stand here, not to praise you, but to acquaint you with reality, at least as well as I am able. Perhaps that means I should be killed or at least run out of town. But if that’s so, then so be it. I am tired of living a life other than my own – the pre-scripted, advertiser-generated life that is shoved before my eyes day by day. And I suspect that some of you are tired of it as well.*

*Please allow me to begin by pointing out that all the fights from all the platforms this election cycle will concern trivialities – Team Red versus Team Blue – and competing varieties of fears – terrorists versus outlawed unions versus less free stuff versus whatever works in your little corner of the world. At most, these are fights over personalities – He’s an arrogant ass, she’s a conniving witch, and so on – all of which really come down to, “My opponent is scarier than I am.”*

*None of these bobbleheads will ask the questions that matter: Who are we? What do we want? Where should we be headed?*

*You see, once we get past all the publicized fears – some real, but most imaginary – the dialog we’re having, if we care to admit it, is mostly self-praise. We laud our great “democracy,” even though not one in a thousand can define it. Or we brag about our wonderful “freedom” but avoid defining it, knowing that our definition wouldn’t stand up to the test. Freedom is “what we have,” and further questions are evidence of stupidity, bordering on treason.*

*The truth is that we’ve trained ourselves to evade reality. Praising ourselves is so much easier: Team America!*

*By doing this, my friends, we’ve been blind to the greatest opportunity that has ever stood before a human generation: If we wanted to, we could quickly and easily step into a golden age. In fact, we’ve been doing just that, half by accident, for a long time. If we bothered to work at it, even halfheartedly, we’d go down in history as the generation that transformed humanity forever.*



*But perhaps most of us wouldn’t like that. And if so, that’s our choice to make. My objection is that no one bothers to talk about it.*

*I’d like for you, for just a few seconds, to take a look at two graphs, which I pulled out of Julian Simon’s *The State of Humanity*. The first graph shows how much wheat is not grown, because our production capacity is so much greater than our demand for wheat.*

*This second one shows the price of wheat measured in wages.*

*And I have others like this, for other commodities.*

*There is one message that comes screaming through here, and it’s one that I know can be deeply troubling. Nonetheless, that message is true: Scarcity on planet Earth is dying. I’ll pause to allow you a small freakout over that, to let all those prerecorded messages run screaming through your mind.*

*You see, our ruling systems have been built on the assumption of scarcity, and the idea that scarcity may be failing throws us into crisis.*

*Isn’t it odd that good news should upset us?*

*Scarcity, sadly, became more than a sad fact to us; it became a psychological necessity. But what if we no longer need to fight over resources? Is that a concept that we should rush to eliminate?*

*And in actual fact, there are fewer and fewer starving people all the time, and most of those are starving because of political distortions, not because of insufficient production technology.*

*All of this reminds me of a comment from Buckminster Fuller that I like to condense:*

*I decided man was operating on a fundamental fallacy: that he was destined to be a failure. I decided that man was, in fact, designed to be an extraordinary success. His characteristics were magnificent; what he needed was to discover the comprehensive patterns operating in the universe.*

*So, what if humanity is designed to be an extraordinary success? Why should this thought repel us, even before we honestly consider it?*

*You see, these are things we need to discuss. (Continued on page 2).*

## The Plot to Impose a National Sales Tax or Value Added Tax

By PUBLIUS HULDAH, *Constitutional Editor*

**A devilish plot is afoot** to impose new national taxes on the American People. It is a masterful piece of trickery because the authorization for the new national taxes is buried within Compact for America’s version of a balanced budget amendment to the US Constitution.



Furthermore, the balanced budget amendment does *nothing* to control federal spending; and transforms our Constitution from one of limited and defined powers to one of general and unlimited powers.

Yet this monstrosity is pending in Michigan as SB 306 and in **North Carolina as HB 366**. Legislators in four States, Alaska, **Georgia**, Mississippi and North Dakota, have already passed it.

Let’s look at Sections 1-6 of Compact for America’s balanced budget amendment:

### It does Nothing to Control Federal Spending

Section 1 allows Congress to spend as much as they take from us in taxes and **add to the national debt**. *That’s a good idea?*

Sections 2 and 3 permit Congress to raise the debt whenever 26 States agree. States are addicted to federal funds. Will 25 States agree *not* to take more federal funds?

Section 4 is a joke: Who believes Congress will impeach a President for refusing to “impound” an appropriation made by Congress? Congress won’t even impeach a President for Treason.

### How Authorization for the New Taxes is Hidden

Section 5 says:

“No bill that provides for a new or increased *general revenue tax* shall become law unless approved by a two-thirds roll call vote of the whole number of each House of Congress...” [italics mine]

What is a “*general revenue tax*”? Section 6 defines it:

“... ‘*general revenue tax*’ means *any income tax, sales tax, or value-added tax levied by the government of the United States...*” [italics mine]

Now go back to Section 5 and substitute **the definition** of “*general revenue tax*” for that term:

**“No bill that provides for a new or increased *income tax, sales tax, or value-added tax levied by the government of the United States* shall become law unless approved by a two-thirds roll call vote of the whole number of each House of Congress...”**

**There it is:** All that’s needed is approval of two-thirds of the members of each House and a new national sales tax and/or value added tax is imposed on us. And they can increase it, along with increasing the income tax, whenever they get two-thirds of the members to vote for it.

Section 5 also permits Congress to make laws to impose a new “end user sales tax” which would replace the income tax – this “end user sales tax” is passed by a simple majority of both houses. (Continued on page 2).

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## The Plot to Impose a National Sales Tax (Continued from page 1)

Compact for America's balanced budget amendment provides two options to Congress:

**Two-thirds of the members of both Houses can impose a new sales tax and/or value-added tax in addition to the income tax; or**

A simple majority of both Houses can impose "a new end user sales tax" which replaces the income tax.

Which option will Congress choose?

Our Constitution doesn't now authorize a National Sales Tax or Value-added Tax. Article I, §8, clause 1 says:

"The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises..."

Principles of Compact for America say this clause already authorizes a national sales tax or value added tax. Board Vice-President Chip DeMoss said on Feb. 12, 2014:

"a national sales tax would be an "impost" (defined as a tax or similar compulsory payment) that is authorized under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1..."

*We may not properly use DeMoss' redefinition of "impost"! We must use the definition of "impost" our Framers used: The Federalist Papers say an "impost" is a tax or duty on imports. See www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/ and type imposts in the search box and the Papers discussing imposts will come up. See for yourself that an "impost" is a tax or duty on imports.*

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "impost" as:

"...Any tax or tribute imposed by authority; particularly, a duty or tax laid by government on goods imported, and paid or secured by the importer at the time of importation. Imposts are also called customs."

Do you see? National sales taxes and value-added taxes are also not "excise" taxes. **Excise taxes** are a tax on a unit of goods – such as the infamous **whiskey excise tax of 1791** which led to the Whiskey Rebellion. It imposed a flat tax per gallon. The tax was payable for domestic whiskey at the distillery (§17 of the Act) and the casks were numbered and marked to show the tax had been paid (§19 of the Act).

"Taxes" at Art. I, §8, clause 1 refers to the apportioned direct tax provided for at Art. I, §2, clause 3 of our Constitution.

Our Framers were specific about the kinds of taxes Congress is permitted to impose. Congress does not have the power to impose any kind of tax it wants. Our Framers limited Congress' taxing power to the apportioned direct taxes at Art. I, §2, clause 3; the duties or imposts on imports at Art. I, §8, clause 1; and the excises at Art. I, §8, clause 1.

A sales tax is none of the above. A sales tax is a percentage of the retail price of goods. A value-added tax is a **"turbo-charged national sales tax on goods and services that is applied at each stage of production, not merely on retail transactions"** and raises a "gusher of revenue for spendthrift governments worldwide".

We have never had a national sales tax or value added tax in this Country. Why? Because they are not authorized by the Constitution.

We were manipulated into supporting the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We were told the income tax would "soak the rich" – and the envious drooled at the prospect.

And so again today, statist are seeking to trick us into supporting a national sales tax or a value added tax: first, by concealing it within the verbiage of the bill; and then, once the trickery was exposed, by claiming the Constitution already authorizes these new types of taxes.

### There is a Better Way: Downsize the Federal Government!

Our Constitution limits federal spending to the enumerated powers. The list of objects on which Congress may lawfully spend money is a short list. See the list at [publiushuldah.wordpress.com/2015/06/24/states-need-budgets-but-enumerated-powers-limit-federal-spending](http://publiushuldah.wordpress.com/2015/06/24/states-need-budgets-but-enumerated-powers-limit-federal-spending).

Most of what the federal government does today is unconstitutional as outside the scope of the powers delegated by the Constitution. **Let's cut federal spending by downsizing the federal government to its enumerated powers and constitutional limits.**

For footnotes and links to information mentioned in this article please see:

[publiushuldah.wordpress.com/2015/08/26/the-plot-to-impose-a-national-sales-tax-or-value-added-tax/](http://publiushuldah.wordpress.com/2015/08/26/the-plot-to-impose-a-national-sales-tax-or-value-added-tax/).



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sept 5 & 6—Mountain Heritage Festival**, Downtown Blairsville. 9 a.m.—5 p.m. The Heritage Festival celebrates the history of mountain culture of Union County. Over sixty mountain arts and crafts vendors. Enjoy BBQ, kettle corn, homemade ice cream, tomato sandwiches, etc. Music all weekend. Civil War re-enactors. Demonstrations on quilting, spinning, basket making, chair canning. Farm animals, Gold panning, marble shooting, and more. Located at the Mountain Life Museum (one block south of downtown) 24 School Street.

**Sept 8—Cherokee NC ARES Formal Meeting**, Murphy, NC, 7 pm. Our regularly scheduled second Tuesday meeting at the Robert Penland Senior Center, 69 Alpine Street (behind the courthouse) in Murphy.

**Sept 10—The Well Armed Woman**, Murphy, NC, 6 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping & empowering women gun owners. Meeting at Christian Martial Arts Center, 56 Valley River Ave, Downtown Murphy.

**Sept 12—Western Carolina Amateur Radio Group Brunch**, Murphy, NC, 10:00 am. Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at Main Street USA restaurant located on Hiwassee Street in Murphy.

**Sept 18-20—"Prepper Camp"**, Saluda, NC. A national event held in a campground located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Experience survival skills and camp-craft activities. Over 30 scheduled presenters including Survivor Jane, Rick Austin and Dr. William Forstchen. Camp area still available. Advanced tickets are urged (\$34.95/adult, good for 3-days) as venue will sell-out. For info and tickets please go to [www.preppercamp.com](http://www.preppercamp.com).

**Sept 19—NRA Women on Target Clinic** – Murphy, NC. 9 am – 3 pm. Introduction to firearms for ladies. To be held at the Practical Pistol Training Range. Fee: \$25. To register contact Carrie Brekke, 706-896-6075 or at [practicalpistoltraining@gmail.com](mailto:practicalpistoltraining@gmail.com).

**Sept 19—Cherokee NC ARES Social Brunch**, Murphy, NC, 10 am. Our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Saturday of each month. This is an opportunity for a social gathering and it will not involve any formal presentations or training. All those interested in amateur radio or just a good meal and fellowship are invited to attend. XYs welcome! Meeting at Main Street USA located on Hiwassee Street in Murphy.

 **From The Old Farmer's Almanac- Storing Apples:** Never leave apples in a bowl on the counter if you want them to keep. Apples keep well for about 6 months at temperatures between freezing and 45°F. If you don't have a root cellar, a double cardboard box in a cool mudroom or cellar can approximate the conditions. You can also store apples in the fruit drawer of your fridge. It helps to have a damp paper towel nearby to increase humidity.

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### What An Actual Leader Would Say (Continued from page 1)

*We are, whether we like it or not, stepping out of scarcity, and it seems to me that we should decide whether or not that's a good thing.*

*Our problem – our real problem, if we can muster the courage to admit it – is that we're living with space-age technology and bronze-age rulership. But we can get past this problem if we wish, and we can easily meet all of humanity's basic needs... if we wish.*

*But perhaps we don't want to. Maybe it's more important to us that we should be the biggest dog in town and that everyone else should be a little yap-yap dog.*

*And if that's the case, we need to admit it to ourselves. Perhaps we'll decide that what we really need is to be the dominant dog, and that all the morality stuff we talk about – golden rules and loving our neighbors – was all juvenile blather; that what we really want is to dominate everyone else.*

*And if that's the case, we should get busy rebuilding our civilization in the form of the Roman Empire. We should get serious about beating the hell out of everyone else... at least until a new Christ comes along (or perhaps just people who remember the old one) and convinces our subjects that there's a better way to live.*

*But in the meantime, we could kick the crap out of a billion brown people for a century or two, minimum. That's our choice to make, of course, I'm only suggesting that we be forthright about it.*

*So, my friends, let me conclude by saying this:*

*If what we really want is to be the big dog, to feast on the fact that we're able to kick all the smaller dogs around, then let's do it. Let's go full-Caesar on 'em. Let's conquer everything, steal what we like, and live it up.*

*Or, if that's not what we really want, then let's get the golden age started; let's dump the hierarchies that steal half our earnings and labor to keep fear alive. Let's build and plant and thrive; and let's welcome others to thrive with us.*

*Thank you for not shooting me.*